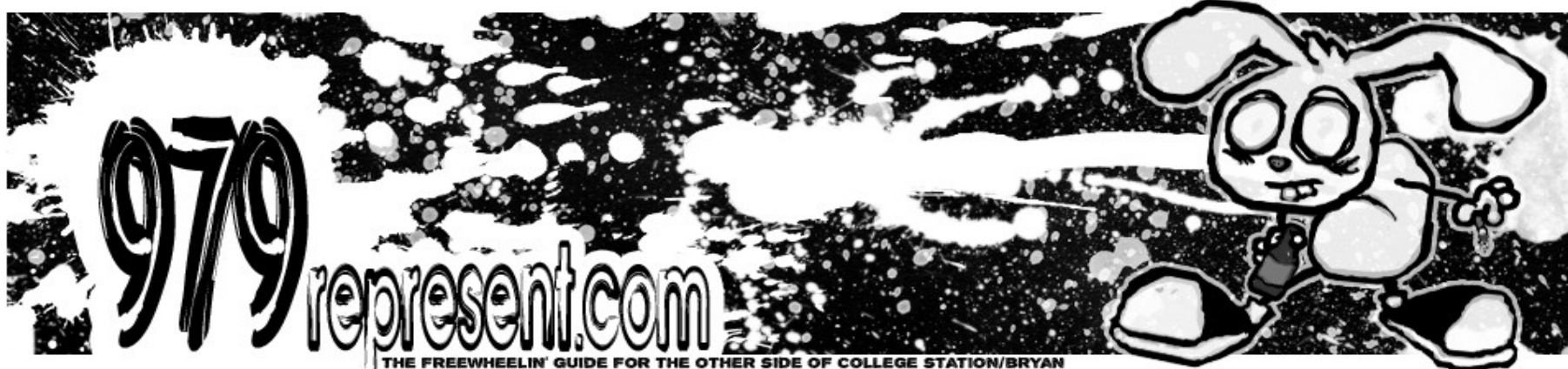


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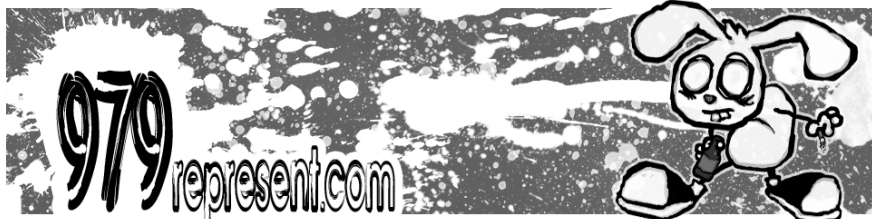
THE FREEWHEELIN' GUIDE FOR THE OTHER SIDE OF COLLEGE STATION/BRYAN



STAY IN TOUCH

B/CS PUNK ROCK

ALSO INSIDE: WELCOME TO AGGIELAND—TEXAS OKTOBERFEST BREWS—
CONCERT CALENDAR—CD REVIEWS—A TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BENNETT



979Represent is a local magazine
for the discerning dirtbag.

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LOCAL HIGH SCORE BADASS OF THE MONTH



NAME: Atarimatt
GAME: Pac-Man
PLATFORM: Arcade
SCORE: 145,550
DATE: 8/14/2010



NAME: Atarimatt
GAME: Frogger
PLATFORM: Arcade
SCORE: 19,250
DATE: 8/14/2010

You wanna be a local video game badass too? For the complete list of local high schores and submission info go to <http://www.979represent.com>

R.I.P. Willie Bennett



Late last month legendary local music promoter Willie Bennett passed away quite quickly from pancreatic cancer. I think it is important to take the time out today to recognize someone who probably doesn't get as much credit as he should for loving a community and recognizing a uniqueness that could be nurtured and cultivated into something truly special. That is what Willy Bennett did first as a local band promoter for many years and then later through the Northgate Music Festival.

It is true that these days you can't shake a stick without it pointing at a regional musical festival. Although it has been three years since the last Northgate Music Festival two more dedicated music festivals have sprung up in the Brazos Valley to take its place. Austin, Dallas, Houston...even Conroe and Georgetown have music festivals or series featuring the best local, regional and national talent. It is not the singular event it once was. Locally, Willie Bennett and Northgate Music Festival preceded most other activities and was widely recognized as an important cultural event to the character and identification of Northgate and College Station. Sure, we had Chilifest and other events but nothing for rock & roll and nothing at Northgate, the spiritual heart of College Station.

In the late '90s "North By Northgate" began and throughout its nine year history attempted to put this area on the map for something other than Texas A&M and college football. Not that those pursuits are worthless or anything but it is widely assumed that aside from those two endeavors Bryan/College Station is bereft. We are not a cultural backwater, and Willie Bennett was out to prove that to the city and the region. Initially his festival succeeded but in later years disagreements led Willie to part ways with Northgate Music Festival for a number of years. In those middle years Northgate Music Festival drifted without his direct input. 2007 was supposed to have been a return to form for NMF with Bennett onboard again as he was during the festival's heyday. For whatever reason, Northgate Music Festival folded after this one swan song and little had been heard of from Bennett since.

I think it is fair to say that Willie and I did not see eye-to-eye on much of how NMF was organized and operated. It was my experience as a sort of advisor to the 2007 festival that I had the idea of putting together my own festival that addressed the shortcomings of NMF. To me, those were namely the higher ticket price and the almost complete lack of local performers and vendors. Even though Willie and I disagreed I was still able to learn from his efforts and still be inspired to take it to the next level myself. That experience led me and the rest of our editorial staff to inaugurate our first LOUD!FEST in 2008 as a sort of anti-Northgate Music Festival, featuring all local bands and no cover charge.

It is a telling and somewhat unfortunate coincidence that Bennett lost his battle at the same time that Northgate itself is losing the fight. Rock The Republic has pretty much filled in the gap created by NMF's loss, although Rock the Republic operates in downtown Bryan rather than Northgate. That is not a solitary event, as most original rock, rap, alt-country and original arts performers in the area have also shifted their focus from Northgate to downtown Bryan. At first this was not done out of choice. As I wrote in this column in last month the clubs and promoters on Northgate chased artistry off the strip several years back. If a young Willie Bennett had proposed "North By Northgate" now he'd be laughed at it, or probably just ignored. It is truly sad that the spiritual and cultural home of College Station has abandoned its practitioners. Downtown Bryan has only benefitted from the sea change.

It feels like it's a passing of one age to another, and it is very important to recognize the work Willie Bennett placed into boosting local music. It is on his foundation that I and other local performers and promoters continue to operate atop. I thank you.—KELLY MINNIS

MOUSTACHE RIDES

WITH JAMES GRAY





Geekbiz101 With Jeremy: The New Apple Patent is Bullshit

I can't believe I am doing yet another article involving Apple's business ethics. I wish I were making this shit up. Alas, here is the latest. No matter what your personal opinion is, the new Apple patent will most likely revolutionize the way you look at mobile security. The patent is titled "Systems and Methods for Identifying Unauthorized Users of an Electronic Device" and boasts radical new security methods for all future iPhones and iPads. When you read about this new stuff it all sounds great until you really think about what they are doing. In case you live under a rock let me recap some of the new features:

- Their servers will remotely detect when you customize your phone in any way.
- It will have the ability to disable your modified phone as they see fit.
- It will have the ability to take pictures and video of you remotely without you knowing.
- They will also be able to record audio from your iPhone or iPad and identity your unique heartbeat signature.

They say its for your own safety. Sure, I guess it could be. If someone steals your iPhone then Apple will know because suddenly your voice changed. After all, they know everything because they will have been listening to your conversations. Another sign of ill activity is that your GPS location is suddenly rapidly changing from its normal patterns and this heartbeat pattern doesn't match the normal patterns... Bam your phone is shut down remotely and rendered useless to the thief. How cool is that?! Really cool as long if it was actually stolen in the first place. Oh yeah, actually you were on vacation and your sister was holding your phone for a while. Too bad your phone is disabled anyway. Funny, I thought that was called invasion of privacy... Call it security though and everyone loves it. It's for your own good, remember?

It would be great technology if only YOU had control over it. Do you trust Apple to not turn your phones camera on and watch you get naked? Why not just have a security feature where you can log in through a secure web browser application and control / disable your stolen phone? After all I'm sure YOU will know better than anyone whether your shit is stolen or not. Wait a min... ANDROID PHONES CAN ALREADY DO THAT! We have had this technology for years now on Android. It's an app called [Mobile Defense](#) and it is a free download. YOU decide if your phone is stolen. YOU look at your stolen phones GPS location, drive over there and give someone a very personal visit. "Hello sir, my name is Mossberg and I'm looking for my fucking phone. Have you seen it?" With Apple you just get to sit around and hope that Apple isn't watching you shower. BTW congratulations Apple for once again doing what you do best. Take some old Android Tech, call it brand new, and remove user control over it.

A patent (pronounced /'pætənt/ or /'peɪtənt/) is a set of exclusive rights granted by a state (national government) to an inventor or their assignee for a limited period of time in exchange for a public disclosure of an invention. WTF did they invent? If that shit flies in court then I should get a patent made for inventing the fucking light bulb. Do yourself a favor and get a DroidX next time.—JEREMY FRANK



Still Drinkin': New Texas Oktoberfest Brews

While the scenery may appear similar between the two at first glance - once empty bars spilling into traffic packed roadways, hordes of wide-eyed youngsters overwhelmed and mommy-less, security on edge, locals in a dither, foreign fashions highly questioned - the bulging populace that lands on Munich, Germany in early September arrive for far different (and enviable) reasons than those migrating to Bryan-College Station.

Around these here central Texas parts, BCS has already begun observing a renewed academic calendar, welcoming a throng of burgeoning young minds and future world changers. But on over in Bavaria, some six million people will soon take to the streets of Munich, filling up on Schweinsbraten and Schlager tunes, crashing foamy lipped steins like high-fives and cheering a force larger than the awkwardness of Lederhosen: the glorious creation of beer.

Although Texas will probably never host a keg party big enough to serve the greater DFW metroplex, local craft brewers are at least offering 12-ounce samples of 16th century Bavarian flair to curious, wanderlusty palates. Shiner Brewing, Real Ale Brewing, and Saint Arnolds Brewing have each added an Oktoberfest Marzen-style lager to their fall seasonal line-up, each currently available at most BCS beer selling establishments.

Traditionally medium-bodied and amber hued, the Marzen-style lager is known in Bavaria for its malty sweet mouthfeel and crisp dry finish. Designed for long days (or weeks) of celebration, the Marzen-style lager is comparable to popular American sessions lagers, such as Pabst Blue Ribbon or Budweiser, for long-haul, back-porch drinkability. Ayinger Oktoberfest Marzen, Paulaner Oktoberfest, Muchner Marzen and Spaten-Oktoberfestbier are traditional Bavarian varieties available in the BCS area by import.

Texas brewers, though greatly inspired by ancestral German brewing practices, "Americanize" the Marzen recipe by simply adding more hops. For the most part, that's how we do things in American craft brewing: take a centuries old recipe and hop it up. And even though the new Texas craft Oktoberfests are not what you would call hoppy beers, not in the sense of American pale ales or IPAs, the hoppy distinction is immediately revealed by a deeper complexity of flavors and heightened alcohol percentages. This "Americanization process" results in a bigger, bolder beer: less sessions lager, more top-shelf bottle.

My buddy, Ian Nelson, and I recently sat down to a tasting of all three Texas born Oktoberfest beers. And after several sips, three (separate) trips to the backyard, and two pages of scribbled notes, Ian and I decided, without companion in top tier, that Real Ale's Oktoberfest takes the crown. Real Ale's Oktoberfest appeared lighter in color than Shiner's or Saint Arnold's, and Real Ale's very slight sweetness - still acutely evident through a bright hop forwardness - tasted more like molasses than brown sugar, making Real Ale the most refreshing and inviting of the bunch.

As a non-Texas side note, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company from Chico, California recently released Tumbler Autumn Brown Ale. While I've never been much for the brown ales, I'm predicting Tumbler my go-to Fall 2010 beer. Nutty but not overly dry, Tumbler's crisp, over-roasted malts, like the scorched near-blackened edges of wheat toast, make Tumbler a stand out seasonal among other, sweeter fall beers. And, damn it, if Tumbler's aroma don't make me mindful of pumpernickel! And I'm a sucker for pumpernickel! In fact, let's cut out all this wheat and rye ale business and get straight to a glory worth the dancing of six million tongues: pumpernickel ale! Dear Christ, I already celebrate the day.—KEVIN STILL

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B-Bit Burgers with Atarimatt: Sodolaks Beefmasters



When ever I'm out to eat somewhere I haven't been before I ALWAYS get the ham-burger. You just never know if you might end up with the best one ever. Recently I was at the newest Sodelak's location right next to the Hilton. I REALLY wanted the chicken fried steak, but thought I'd go ahead and get a new review in. I figured with this being a mega meat type place...nothing but steaks and shit like that, that my odds were pretty damn good on getting a pretty damn good burger.



Sodolaks is located at 809 University Dr. in College Station & 3500 Highway 21 W in Bryan

Well....while what I got wasn't a bad burger, it just wasn't anything special. What I got was a 1/2 pound patty fresh off the SysCo truck. When you get your burger and its PERFECTLY round...you know that shit ain't fresh. I'm not gonna go into anymore detail since I have slowly become a burger snob and describing a pre-processed burger is like a beer snob describing a Keystone Light.

So next time you are at Sodelak's skip the burger and get the chicken fried steak...I wish I had.

Bit Rate: 6/10

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Sector 9 - Santa Cruz - Spitfire - Tensor - Element - Landyachtz
Theeve - Madrid - Cadillac - Loaded



Asian Persuasions with The Dahli Rama: The Asians of Aggieland

What have you heard about Aggieland? Is it the rabid nature of the football fans and necessary cult-like devotion to the Aggies? Is it the raucous nature of its inhabitants and the award of being the “wettest” (alcohol consumption per capita) county in Texas (Yay Northgate!!)? What is it you think you know about Aggieland?

This month I’m here to talk about being Asian in Aggieland. If you aren’t from Texas, the first question that you get asked from friends and family back home, where ever that may be, is “Are you surrounded by redneck racists decked out in Earnhardt gear?”. Not so. Maybe gratitude to the open minded nature of Aggie students is in order, but I’ve met the majority of my experience here in Bryan/College Station with a skip in my step and an eye-squinting smile on my face. The only complaint that I have is with Texas in general; the summers here suck and make my maneuvering of your narrow streets in my rickshaw very “difficurt”.

What does make life inconvenient at times is the assumption that the Asian collective known as “we” are automatically restituted to the designation of international student. My homeboys from the Middle East, technically classified as “Asian,” know what I’m talking about. It’s not a generalization relegated only to Texas, but other “minorities”. African Americans, Hispanics, & Europeans aren’t asked what “nationality” they hail from; it’s just a frequent question you get asked when you’re in Texas. I guess it doesn’t help that a slough exists next to Northgate (bar area of College Station for you newbs) where said international students have congregated. In fact, whilst in the middle of composing the necessary information and data for this article, I visited Ping’s Buffet off of Texas Avenue only to be asked by a fellow patron the consistency, taste, and nature of the sweet and sour sauce and how I felt it compared to “the stuff you must make at home”. Ignorance isn’t a phenomenon solely for Aggieland, but being that this is your first step into the journey called adulthood, it’s the place where you will create memories of it being very prominent.

Which brings me to the moral of the story, for lack of a better phrase. What are you supposed to do here? How do you get the most out of your college experience? How do you get the most out of “Aggieland”? Up to this point in what you could or would constitute as my “career”, I’ve neglected participating in organizations and groups. This can easily be traced back to High School where I wasn’t with the cool kids and the group of kids I did hang out with neglected to include me or maybe just thought I didn’t fit into certain activities that they partook in. No big deal; this isn’t a bitchfest of how I sought revenge for not being cool. It wasn’t that I rebelled against the group mentality. It was more along the lines of I didn’t think I had the necessary chops to commit to the activities that would enable me to fit in and succumb to peer pressure. I’m lucky because I was able to see the hive mentality/zombification of the youth for what it really was. What sucked is that I longed to be a part of it.

Fast forward to college, and I went out for the frats. I wanted to be cool in college, and if that meant paying for friends, it was something I was willing to trade in for the opportunity to attain what it is I thought I was missing. Fuck, I even tried to convince my folks, who were already strapped to the bone for cash, for the necessary \$750 brotherhood fee under the guise that it would somehow give me an academic edge. But it wasn’t the fault of the fraternity that I wasn’t among “the chosen”. I fucked that up all on my own. When you’re Korean, you’re blessed with a liver that works efficiently and can endure a shitload of abuse. But it doesn’t mean that it’s without its limitations. Thanks to my vigor during a frat party, I blacked out (yay for vodka!), and apparently took some swings at some party guests. I can’t remember where I woke up, how I got there, or where my car was. Because I FAILED to get into the frat, I made all sorts of excuses as to why I didn’t join. Youth is awesome because in your innocence/ignorance you can justify pretty much anything. I graduated (barely) and went on to the real world.

So what the hell are you talking about Dahli Rama? What kind of long ass fortune is this? This shit wouldn’t even fit in a cookie?

The point is to take advantage of the opportunities that life, your family, and your hard work has afforded you. I’ll be the first to acknowledge that your GPA doesn’t mean squat to future employers, but it may have a bearing on your future if you decide that you want to further your education via grad school. This university/college experience is the first opportunity, for many of you, to be solely responsible for yourselves. It’s a pristine opportunity to test the boundaries of your respective lives and to have your own horror/hilarity stories regarding the fun you can have with alcohol. But don’t forget that this is the foundation to which you are building your future and your career. Nothing is beyond repair if you fuck it up. By why undertake that mentality when you have the chance and choice to do it up right the first time. Create balance and you will acquire that which is the essence of happiness. < - That should be in a cookie.—THE DAHLI RAMA



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Pedal Pushing: Moog Moogerfooger MF-101 Lowpass Filter

I have been a huge fan of Moog (rhymes with vogue) Instruments most of my life. Dr. Robert Moog pretty much invented the modern synthesizer with his gigantic telephone switchboard Moog Modulators in the late ’60s and eventually the MiniMoog, the first all-in-one portable analog synthesizer. There were others before Moog but none really that succeeded in the way Moog did. By the 1980’s analog synthesis was a passé concept and the keyboard world was clamoring for digital and sampling instruments. Moog had nothing of the sort to offer, and some time in the mid ’80s Moog closed up shop. About 15 years later Robert Moog debuted a new line of MiniMoogs as well as Moogerfooger guitar pedals. This month we are looking at the MF-101 lowpass filter pedal.

For starters, let’s get to what a lowpass filter actually does. It filters out all frequencies above its cutoff point. So with the cutoff fully open audio passes through it unaffected. As you lower the cutoff frequency the highs are reduced. As you add resonance to the mix the frequencies at or around the cutoff point are then accentuated. At a moderate level of resonance turning the cutoff pot starts to give you that “synth” sort of sound. Moog gives you lots of ways to control the filter by hand, expression pedal, through playing dynamics and through control voltages (more on that later). The average guitar player will use the envelope follower or will plug an expression pedal in.

The envelope follower allows your guitar’s attack to trigger the filter and make a sort of “wow” sound, like an autowah. Depending on how you set the envelope amount in relation to the filter cutoff designates how pronounced the effect is. The speed can be toggled between fast and slow, and using the 2-pole versus the 4-pole setting will dictate the intensity of the filter effect. Some players will want to plug an expression pedal into one of the CV inputs, such as filter cutoff, and use the pedal like a more intense wah-wah. A standard wah pedal doesn’t give you much options for tailoring your sound like the Moogerfooger does.

For me, this pedal is less about guitar effects and more about using it as a tone source and using it as a studio effect. Most analog lowpass filters will self-oscillate at high resonance settings. In English, this means that if you crank the resonance all the way up you will begin to hear the pedal hum. Turning the cutoff pot will then change the pitch of the hum. What you are hearing is a perfect sine wave. I like to use the Moogerfooger for just that purpose, as an instrument in its own right. Through delay and reverb you can make theremin-type ghost sounds as well as drones, siren effects and such. I also like to run other instruments, such as drum machines, vocals and other keyboards into the Moogerfooger to warm them up (turn the mix level all the way up and the pedal adds a bit of bite to a clean signal).

The other aspect of this pedal that is attractive to me is that it is essentially a modular synth module in a guitar pedal. It has control voltage access to most of its parameters. A control voltage is pretty much an electronic pulse. Audio before it is converted at the speaker or headphone is just an electronic pulse. With this in mind, you can send audio into the CV in’s (there’s one for cutoff, resonance, envelope and mix) and make the pedal do strange things. Sending a stereo drum loop into the cutoff (left signal) and audio in (the right) allows for automating the frequency cutoff *in tempo* with the loop. Other Moog devices send and receive control voltages. I also like to take non-synthesizer sounds like electric piano or drums and render them “synthetic” through the envelope follower at extreme settings.

As a guitar effect I really felt like the lowpass filter was kinda superfluous. It wasn’t the sort of thing I’d wire up on the pedalboard very often. I already have a phase pedal that I’m happy with. That said, for my keyboards rig and recording studio I am in absolute love with the Moogerfooger. I can wire up the craziest sounds that can’t be readily duplicated by other people. Be forewarned that it is a large pedal and may not fit on some pedalboards. Also, while it is made of metal and wood the switch itself is soft (it does not click). While that might be nice for studio and keyboard players, heavy-footed guitar dudes may want to treat the MF-101 nicely. Besides, at \$279 from most e-tailers the Moog MF-101 is not the cheapest of pedals. The sound, however, is definitely worth the price and its only limitation really is your imagination.—KELLY MINNIS



WELCOME TO AGGIELAND!!

a guide to dirtbag destinations in b/cs

Arsenal Tattoo & Design

2045 S. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. College Station (979) 696-3430
If you're looking to get inked, this is *the* place in B/CS to get quality artistry.

Bill Allen Motorcycle Co.

3607A S. College Ave. Bryan (979) 822-4294
Get your ride slicked up right with the best local motorcycle sales, customization and repair house around.

C-Ment Skateboard & Apparel

1724 Rock Prairie Rd. College Station (979) 680-1000
Skater owned and operated, C-Ment's got all the rad skate, snowboard, shoes and clothes.

Fuego Tortilla Grill

108 Poplar St. College Station (979) 703-1804
Roll your own taco with the finest ingredients.

Grand Station

2400 Earl Rudder Fwy College Station (979) 696-1100
Lazer tag, cash bar bowling, video games, etc. Like Chuckie Cheese for adults & without shitty pizza.

Half Price Books

2410 S. Texas Ave. College Station (979) 696-2325
This is the closest thing to a cool record store we have...plus lots of other cool used movies, comics and books.

J Cody's

3610 S. College Ave. Bryan (979) 846-2639
The best BBQ experience in town. Other places have great meat but J. Cody has a great *meal*.

Jin's Asian Café

110 Nagle St. College Station (979) 691-8858
Jin's does a good job of well-rounded Asian. A little Thai, a little Korean, a little old school Chinese, a little Indian, etc. Cheap and right across from A&M.

Koppe Bridge Bar & Grill

11777 FM 2154 College Station (979) 764-2933
Local polls rate Koppe Bridge's burgers as the best in town. If it's not the best then it's definitely one of the top three.

La Bodega Taco Bar

102 Church Ave. College Station (979) 220-5126
Mexican restaurants are a dime a dozen around here but La Bodega does it super fresh with an emphasis on fish, fresh ingredients and *health*.

Lippman Music Co.

112 Nagle St. College Station (979) 846-1225
The local's favorite hole in the wall jampacked with amps, guitars, drums and such. You can also get set-ups, repairs and gear rentals there too.

Lost Souls Fixies

12815B FM 2154 College Station (979) 822-8338
The dirtbag's choice for bicycles, accessories and repairs.



OK, so you made it off to college. You've got all your stuff unpacked in your tiny dorm room with the smelly roommate from parts unknown, or maybe you've got all your stuff tight in your first apartment with all your bros and ladies. You've got your books, you know (for the most part) where your classes are, but you don't really *know* Bryan/College Station yet. You've heard vaguely about Northgate and you're pretty sure you can get back to the grocery again next week by yourself but you're pretty convinced that your friends are all right. You *are* pretty fucking dumb for having chosen to go to Texas A&M or Blinn instead of Rice or U of H or UT or somewhere much cooler out of state. Well, stop feeling sorry for yourself, snapperhead. Because you have something cooking right here in your very own backyard. You see, if all you do is stay on University Dr. or Texas Ave. then you'd never know that Bryan/College Station has some awesome places to patronize that aren't located on the beaten path right in front of you. We kick it speakeasy-style in the 979, broseph. We've got lots of tiny places full of character *AND* characters.

Every town has pretty much the same chain restaurants and stores. It's the homespun unique places in a town that makes you want to stick around. When you first get to Bryan/College Station the major strips on Villa Maria or Texas Ave. really jump out at you. We've got lots of restaurants and shops and they are all practically BEGGING you to spend your parents' hard-earned money with them. This map will help you find the cool places to shop and the cool stuff to do at night without having the inconvenience of stumbling around town. That's how much we love you...we'll do you this solid *gratis*.

I moved here in the summer of 2006 and it took me easily a year to find out that there was actually cool stuff to do here beyond the usual Aggie and Northgate stuff. And the usual B/CS stuff isn't bad, really. I've lived in many college towns over the years and I've never attended or worked at a university more rich in tradition than Texas A&M. Going to a football game here is as big a deal as going to see the pros play (even if the caliber of play is somewhat reduced I am sad to say). I'm proud to be an adjunct Aggie. But if sports or redneck culture is not your bag, then please refer often to the map on this page and try out some of the cool and unique stuff Bryan/College Station has to offer. And then *why don't you maybe see about offering something up yourself!!* Start a band, even if you've never touched a musical instrument in your life. Paint. See a play or write and produce one. Sculpt. Make art out of trash. Hold a protest. Join the roller derby league. Make friends with someone your mama and daddy would absolutely freak out if they ever saw you with them...and then introduce them to each other at Parent's Weekend!

The point here really is that college really is what you make of it. It's the magic time in your life when you have adult privileges without full-on adult responsibility. Whatever you do (provided it doesn't kill you or somebody else) will pretty much be excused away as "oh, that was just my crazy college years". Enjoy it, because it will pass you by quick. Bryan/College Station is full of memories waiting to happen. To let them go to waste is worse than failing Chemistry. I guarantee.—KELLY MINNIS

Margies

320 N. Main St. Bryan (979) 822-8422
Margie's is an old school dive bar that's friendly as hell and they pat out one of the best burgers you'll ever have by hand right before your eyes.

Mr. G's Pizzeria

201 W. 26th St. Bryan (979) 822-6747
404 University Dr. College Station (979) 696-6777
No college town is complete without a ripping local pizza joint, and Mr. G's is ours. We recommend the calzone.

Northgate Vintage

403 University Dr. College Station (979) 691-8820
It's the tiniest but awesomest vintage clothing and apparel shop around that also sells new stuff and vinyl LP's too. The only wormhole you'll ever climb up!

Revolution Café & Bar

211 S. Main St. Bryan (979) 823-4044
The heart and soul of the local dirtbag community. It's like your favorite living room house party with a cash bar! Free wi-fi, good drinks and the best live music around.

Smoken Joes

3701 S. Texas Ave. Bryan (979) 260-1636
You can get cigarettes anywhere, right? Yeah, but this place *really* knows its tobacco, y'know? If you've ever rolled your own then this is your place.

Spoons Yogurt

1509 S. Texas Ave. College Station (979) 446-0085
Self-serve yogurt & sorbet with an assortment of fresh fruit, candy, nuts and whatever.

Square One Bistro

211 William J. Bryan Pky Bryan (979) 361-0264
Looking for an interesting place to have a date night? Square One's got the fanciness but not in a clichéd manner. The menu is eclectic and the atmosphere is unpretentious.

Stafford Main Street

106 S. Main St. Bryan (979) 775-5359
Like some urban primordial rock and roll dive cave transplanted to B/CS, complete with the loudest PA plus tons of live metal, punk, and indie music every night.

Stover Boys Burgers

4337 Wellborn Rd. Bryan (979) 846-4555
Like no other hamburger you have ever had anywhere. Homemade milkshakes, onion rings and white trash chili...this is the place you will text your friends at home about.

To The Point Piercing

119 Walton St. College Station (979) 595-4153
If you love it then you should put a ring through it...and if so then you should definitely let Jave and company be the ones to do it.

Village Café

210 W. 26th St. Bryan (979) 703-8514
Great fresh food, cool atmosphere and the occasional singer-songwriter in the corner.

stay in touch

story by Kelly Minnis

Punk rock is a blanket term these days. So many things in pop culture are labeled as punk rock. It almost seems as if these days punk rock is or can be pretty much whatever someone claims it is. For me to say Stay In Touch is a punk rock band could mean so many different things. Let it be said that Stay In Touch is a punk rock band to the ultimate degree of the term.

That said, on Stay In Touch's debut EP *Losing Friends* (available Sept. 11th from local indie label Sinkhole Texas Inc.), the College Station quintet stylistically owes as much to metal, modern alt-rock and post-hardcore as it does to classic punk rock. The band's sound cannot be traced directly back to the genre's genesis but more closely to the 1990's commercial punk heyday. When bands like Orange 9mm, Pennywise, MXPX, Bad Religion and Bouncing Souls made it look like they too could cash in on the Green Day gravy train.

Like those bands, Stay In Touch marries the classic thrash of 80s hardcore punk to post-metal guitars. There are enough palm-muted sixteenth notes on "Mark Got New Hair" to impress the most jaded of speed metal fanatics, while atop it you have melodic lead guitar runs. What makes Stay In Touch somewhat unique amongst modern punk bands happens right on top with the vocals of Paul Joiner. "I sang and played in an alternative, folksy rock band called The Jet Set Life for years before joining Stay In Touch," says Joiner. That influence is obvious on Stay In Touch's sound.

Most punk rock bands have singers that have more in common with hip-hop MC's than the typical classic rock-styled singer. The punk rock front person usually screams a lot, keeps the pit stirred up, swears at you and pretty much gives you something to focus on when you're watching the band. Songs exist of 90-second rants against lots of stuff pissing you off. Stay In Touch has more of, dare I say it? yes I will, a kind of emo approach to their songs. Now, before you get the wrong impression and start thinking these dudes are a bunch of amateur poetry writing hair-teasing girly pantied pussies, it is precisely that soaring emo vocal style and lyrical content atop taut metal-inspired punk rock that makes Stay In Touch not just unique for the Brazos Valley but pretty unique in the current punk rock scene.

"The soaring vocals thing came out of necessity," explains Joiner. "I tend to sing a lot louder when I hit the highest notes possible and when we'd have band practice Vivek and Mark would crank their half stacks up so loud that it would drown out my vocal amp, so the only way I could hear myself at practice was to basically scream at the top of my lungs!" Necessity as the mother of invention. I think it's more likely that Joiner's roots with The Jet Set Life are peeking through the surface. I saw the Jet Set Life a couple of times and that band was very melodic.



Stay In Touch L-R: Tim Horn, Vivek Venkatraman, Paul Joiner, Joe Steinocher, Mark Richie

Plus Paul will sheepishly admit to having fronted "a pretty awful local emo band in high school" so maybe one's roots are hard to bury no matter what idiom one finds themselves in.

That said, the approach is far more aggro than indie. When the whole band yells along at key points, like on the opener "Bieber Fever" when the band hollers "Why do you do this to yourself!" helps to lighten the more melodic moments, like an extra hook. Whereas with most emo bands the screaming felt extraneous and unnecessary, with Stay In Touch it just takes the music to the next level. And we're not talking about screaming anyway. We're talking about the classic hardcore shoutalong that has been a part of punk rock from the get-go. "Basically it just fits the energy of the jams" says

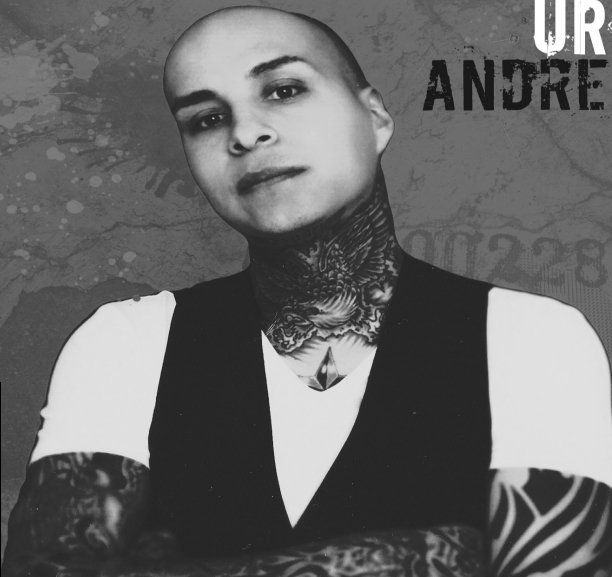
guitarist Vivek Venkatraman.

Vivek and bassist Joe Steinocher are Stay In Touch's foundation. The two played in what Vivek describes as "a shitty punk/alternative band that, honestly, I'm surprised how anyone ever let us play music together" in high school in Corpus Christi and later while attending Texas A&M University happened to "hear (Paul) playing guitar and singing Against Me songs from down the hall" decided to form a punk rock band together. The trio picked up second guitarist Mark Richie and drummer Tim Horn through a Craigslist ad.

Tim Horn is no stranger to the Bryan/College Station music community. Many know Tim through his efforts to raise the local music scene's profile on A&M's campus through his work as an MSC Townhall board member as well as his DJ'ing work on student radio station KANM. Many others will know Tim as the drummer for well-remembered local punk rock buffoons The Flak Jackets.


After deciding that they definitely didn't want to start a trendy indie rock band with Wolf in the name somewhere ("We're nowhere cool enough to be in a band like that!" Paul quips) the five fellas finally assembled for practice last year and have since played about a dozen local shows, opening shows for local bands and playing a set at this year's Loudfest. "We recently played our first show out of town down in Corpus Christi and it was a lot of fun!" remembers Paul. This summer Stay In Touch booked time at Atarimatt's studio to get started on their debut EP, spending a couple of weekends knocking it out. "It was cool as shit!" says Vivek. "Atarimatt was super helpful and spent a good amount of time putting it together and helping us tweak things here and there. It was fairly last minute on our part, but Atarimatt still made sure it happened and we're pretty darn appreciative of it." Paul says only one thing sucked about the experience. "There was no air conditioning and by the end of the recording session my clothes were completely soaked with sweat. It was kinda disgusting."

The recording helped garner Stay In Touch a deal with local indie label Sinkhole Texas Inc. who will be releasing the EP in early September. The band will celebrate the CD's release with a special show at Revolution Café & Bar in downtown Bryan Saturday September 11th. This fall Stay In Touch hopes to support their new EP with a mini-tour. "It's hard to do anything besides play in town when all your members are students who have academic obligations as well as work and stuff like that," explains Vivek. "We see kids our age doing big things like huge tours and fests and stuff and I think we'd all like to do that, but it's certainly difficult." Vivek and company are just glad to be here. "We're just happy that we can have a good time and people don't think we suck too much" says Vivek. I'd say they've succeeded and then some.



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concert calendar

9/1—Signal Rising @ The LUX, College Station. 9pm
9/1—DJ Get Low @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/2—Dustin Welch @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/2—Willpowerless, Amyst @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/3—Strawberry Jam @ Schotzis, College Station. 9pm
9/3—First Yell with Bill Engvall @ Reed Arena, College Station. 8pm
9/3—Rattletree Marimba @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/3—Clair Domingue, The Loveletter, Reves Doux @ the Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/4—Megafauna, J Wesley Haynes Trio @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/4—Blue October @ Ziegfest, Texas Motor Speedway, College Station. 9:30pm
9/4—Hollywood Black, Bachelor Police, The Ride Home, Stay In Touch @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/5—Aim For the Day, Worth the Fight, Theory of Conquest, Eye of Anger @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/8—Lucky Records Musix, KB da MixBreed, Crichy Crich, Rodger D @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/9—Mellow Down Easy @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/9—Flawless Escape, Hell & Lulu, Grenadier Band, Set Aflame @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

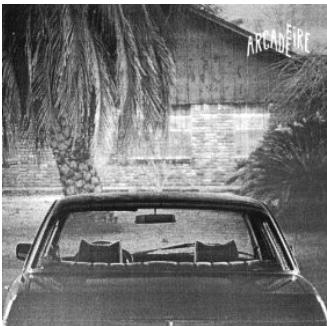
Totally Insane Must-See Show of the Month



Travie McCoy hit the big-time with *Gym Class Heroes* early in the last decade, bringing a more modern hip-hop centered approach to the time-honored fashion of fusing rock with hip-hop. Later Travie went solo and had one of this summer's big breakout hits "Billionaire" that even my seven year old son knows the words to. In a pretty big coup, Daisy Dukes on Northgate booked Travie with guests **Evidence, Mookie and DJ Benzi** for Wednesday, September 29th 9pm. You can get presale tickets at C-Ment, To The Point, MooseGus and Mobile

Toys. Day of show those tickets will assuredly cost you more. It's pretty rare you get a chance to see a current hit maker at a really, really small club in your own town, but that's what you got right here. I hope this is just the beginning of more scores like this for Daisy Dukes—**KELLY MINNIS**

Record Reviews



Arcade Fire *The Suburbs*

For legions of Arcade Fire fans waiting with messianic fervor for *The Suburbs* I can't help but feel this is not what they were anticipating.

While everything is high quality, this is serious stuff, overwhelmingly bleak and melancholy and somber. Lyrically, Win Butler and company have concocted an hour-long paean of universal despair rivaling *The Wasteland*. If you want Arcade Fire's epic anthems offering hope and healing promise, this is not your record.

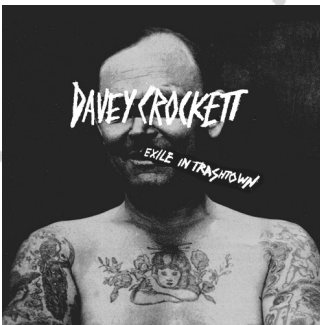
There's "a garden left for ruin" from "City with No Children" (how desolate is that?), the "in line for a number" plaint of "Modern Man" (featuring a REM-ish plucked guitar), and the Springsteen-ian "pray to God I won't live to see the death of everything wild" of "Half Light II".

Despite the permeating gloom, there are still fantastic songs. Closest to AF's majestic best are "Empty Room" with killer strings and choral arrangements begging to be turned up loud. And "Half Light II" just builds and builds its heroic drumming, spinning a science fiction tale.

Yet, the finest is the anguished "Half Light I" led by Regina Chassagne that echoes OMD's "Of All the Things We've Made". The slow strings lament "our heads are just houses without enough windows." Gorgeous.

Two departures showcasing the band's growth are the rocker "Month of May" and the spectacular failure of "We Used to Wait". While the former is content to just rock out, the latter draws insistent piano and electronic keyboards from LCD Soundsystem in its effort for a grand statement. It's a worthy effort that falls short.

The album opens with the country lilt of the title and closes with a whispering reprise of promise already passed by. Arcade Fire isn't surprising us anymore, but it matters that the band continues to try.—**MIKE L. DOWNEY**



Davey Crockett *Exile In Trashtown*

What is up with Houston and all these bands named after famous dudes? A couple of months back we reviewed a fine EP from Muhammadali, this month we review an equally fine release by Davey Crockett, a drums and guitar duo who make nihilist California music.

Exile In Trashtown is full of the West Coast's twangy surf tones, rollicking drums and '60s reverb. Music meant for driving fast with the top down under the ever-present sunlight. The only problem here is that the California you get from Davy Crockett is more Bret Easton Ellis's California, or maybe Tarantino's. The music is dark, yet a spin through this EP's eight songs reveals pop and punk overtones. Jonny Patrick's vocals are manic, bothered and halfway to paranoia. Even when he's singing a pop song like "Little Bit Hateful", he still has the dirt of the grave on him. At other times, most obviously on "Landlords and Graverobbers" the fear is tangible.

There is a definite Jon Spencer Blues Explosion swampiness to Davey Crockett's vibe, but the band never reduces itself to campiness and half-sarcastic non-sequitur sloganeering. While there is a retro vibe, it is never tongue-in-cheek or jokey. It reminds me a lot of the Southern Gothic post-punk of The Birthday Party or Gun Club, like coming down from a bad high with too much sun frying your retinas.—**KELLY MINNIS**



Magic Girl & Her Ex-Husbands *Dove and Raven*

Years ago as entertainment writer for a

small West Texas newspaper, I worried about praising albums because I feared readers would dismiss the artists as "critics' favorites." That said, *Dove and Raven* by Magic Girl and Her Ex-Husbands is an astonishing album ripe for the masses, brimming with magnificent details and rich with music that spans Americana, blues, and rock.

When Johnny Cash sang "I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die," you believed it. We know Johnny never did that, but he forces us to accept his truth in song. So when Magic Girl, aka Mary-Charlotte Young, sings about carrying a loaded gun and threatening to "set your house on fire," you also believe . . . and scramble for a bullet-proof vest and a fire extinguisher.

Through a dozen vignettes of life and lives far removed from television pixels and Internet viral videos, Young brings these people—from farm workers to truck drivers and even murderers and prisoners -- to life. They are just ordinary people struggling for passion and meaning.

The most heartfelt tune is "Used Goods," a brutally-honest apology from a woman to a lover after she "made a fool out of myself" and now "I wish I was dead." As throughout the CD, the Ex-Husbands bolster her marvelous melodies and aching vocals, this time with a weeping slide guitar, organ, and supple percussion that echoes Lucinda Williams and Steve Earle.

The marvelous "The State" and "The State II" are told as letters from a woman to her man in prison. Set to thumping rock drums, Young sings defiantly about escape and hope in the initial tune. However, in the second more-sedate song, ten years have passed, given way to a poignant acceptance of an inevitable end.

Repeated listenings of "Dove and Raven" yield more rewards, whether

9/11—Stay In Touch (CD release), **Davey Crockett** (CD release), **Bachelor Police, The Bromones, Venus Whalers @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm**
9/11—Ethereal, Souls of Agony, Convicted of Treason @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/15—DJ Get Low @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/16—Twilight Hotel @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

9/17—Sideshow Tragedy, Wine & Revolution @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/17—The 71's, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, The Canvas Waiting @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/18—979Represents The Hangouts, Signal Rising, Bachelor Police, Kill The State, Culture In Ruin, Mad Happy, Jay Satellite, Modern Wolves, Alkari, Razzberry Dazzle @ Revolution Café & Bar and The Stafford, Bryan. 8:30pm

9/23—Rock The Republic presents Bright Light Social Hour @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/23—Love Me Last @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/25—Clairmont, Fulton Read, Quiet Company, Driver F, Bachelor Police @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

9/30—Funkotron @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
9/30—SMUT, One, Idle of the Peach @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm

the Mellenkamp wallop of "White Trash Empire" (with its marvelous image of "barefoot kids and a swinging black tire"), the Warren Zevon darkness of "Ramblin' Woman" or the must-be-a-blues-classic "Hen House." Listen and believe.—**MIKE L. DOWNEY**



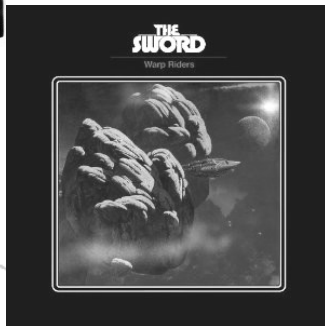
Stay In Touch *Losing Friends*

You only get the one chance to make a first impression, and this is College Station modern punk rock band Stay In Touch's debut, courtesy of local label Sinkhole Texas Inc. Stay In Touch comes out swinging and never lets down on this six song EP.

Big rock-almost metal guitars, workman-like hard drumming vie for bandwidth with the over-the-top hyper-melodic vocals of Paul Joiner. He reminds me of the guy from Thursday in his approach. He can scream and sing at the very tip top of his lungs in an authoritative and appealing way that is uncommon around College Station. Most punk and metal vocalists around here split the difference between carnival barker and Cookie Monster. And if Paul's vocals aren't enough then the whole band joins in to bro it over the top for you.

Song titles have very little, if anything, to do with the actual content of the songs. It seems that for the most part Stay In Touch cares about *relationships*, not just with girls but with friends and authority figures. Although vocally the band touches on the dark recesses of "emo" lyrically we never get into the whining and juvenile journal entries that many of emo's practitioners seem to plunder. "This whirlwind is tearing me apart/but I brought this on myself" Joiner sings in "Dream Fucker". This is no victim.

The rest of the EP careens along in pretty much the same manner, that '90s Warped Tour punk rock vibe with highly melodic vocals up top. *Losing Friends* is another fine release in a long line of great releases from SHTI.—**KELLY MINNIS**



The Sword *Warp Riders*

Not the best Sword album of all time, but better than the last one, and its The FUCKING Sword so its still totally awesome.—**ATARIMATT**

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